Offer of post of Platemakers to Compositors in Government of India Press, Minto Road

2326. SHRI DURGA PRASAD JAMUDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1121 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Compositors have been offered the post of Platemakers on ad-hoc basis without amendment of the Recruitment Rules;

(b) if not, what are the details of the Sanction, issued by the Competent Authorities in this regard; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action Government has taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Because of urgent nature of job mostly connected with Parliament work at the Minto Road Press it became necessary to fill up three posts of Platemakers. As amendment to the Recruitment Rules would require sometime, it was decided to fill up the post from the category of Compositors who had undergone the requisite training and passed the required trade test. The appointment has been made only for a short period on an ad-hoc basis in the interest of work and efficiency. Regular appointment to the post will, however, be made only after the amendment to the Recruitment Rules have been finalised.

Curtailment in coverage by News-papers due to increase in the prices of Newsprint

2327. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of newsprint and steep rise in newsprint prices, which is indirectly affecting the curtailment of news due to reduction of pages; and

(b) whether Government are also aware that this indirectly affects the price rise and right of the people to get the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) There had been some temporary shortfall in the supply of newsprint from indigenous mills owing to power shortage, shut down for maintenance, etc. The prices of indigenous newsprint has gone up from 28 per cent to 40 per cent compared to the prices prevailing in January, 88 for 52 GSM newsprint. The increase on prices of imported newsprint has been from 1.9 per cent to 8.3 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

The newspaper industry has been claiming that it is not in a position to compensate the higher cost as a result of increase in prices of newsprint. Government have not received any report regarding curtailment of news following the reduction of pages on account of rise in prices of newsprint.

(b) It is a fact that some newspapers have increased their subscription rates recently. Newsprint is only one of the components determining the price of newspapers. Government have no such information that the

right of the people to get information has been affected.

News items captioned 'Basu Government May Sue Doordarshan'

2328. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWAS RAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item published in 'Sunday Observer' of 4th June, 1989 under the caption 'Basu Government may sue Doordarshan' and if so, whether West Bengal as well Tamil Nadu Governments are voicing open criticism about Doordarshan's partial attitude; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government propose to take steps to convince various State Governments and the people about the impartial use of Doordarshan in presenting news?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A news item to this effect has come to the notice of the Government. In this news item, Doordarshan has been accused of partisan attitude because it has not telecast the advertisement of the West Bengal Government relating to the direct appeal for the donation to the Bakreswar Thermal Power Plant Fund. Similarly, Doordarshan has also refused to telecast an advertisement of Tamil Nadu Government relating to Co-optex Handlooms. The Government have already clarified to the West Bengal Government that such appeals are not in conformity with the established convention followed by the Media in this regard. Similarly, the Tamil Nadu Government has also been informed that the Co-optex Handlooms advertisement could not be telecast as it contained a visual of the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu and as per the Code for Commercial Advertising, featuring of such dignitaries in the advertisements is violative of the Code.

The news bulletins of both AIR and Doordarshan are guided by 'News Policy for Broadcast Media'. As per these guidelines the only criterian to include any event in News Bulletins is its news worthiness. These guidelines are strictly followed by both the media.

Smuggling of sugar, khandsari and gur to neighbouring Countries

2329. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in the smuggling of Sugar, Khandsari and Gur particularly to the neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what is the estimated increase in the smuggling of sugar alongwith value thereof to Nepal and Bangladesh during the last six months;

(c) what are the areas from where sugar smuggling activities are being carried out;

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check sugar smuggling; and

(e) to what extent the domestic prcies of sugar, Khandsari and Gur have increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Although there have been report especially after the expiry of the Indo-Nepal Treaty on Trade and Transit on 23rd March, 1989, about increase in smuggling of sugar, Khandsari and Gur from the border States to Nepal as also to Bangladesh, available reports and seizure made do not